It was in all probability from thence, the southern fringe of the Matopos, that the type of *P. plumosus* must have originally come. It is therefore thought desirable to change the type locality accordingly to the Matopos Hills, Matabeleland.

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On the application of the name *Zosterops rendovae* Tristram, 1882

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Recently Mees (1955) has given what at first sight seem to be valid, though legalistic, arguments in favour of transferring the name *Zosterops rendovae* Tristram from one species of Solomon Islands white-eye to another. Such a change would cause quite unnecessary confusion, and would be contrary to the spirit of the Principle of Conservation adopted by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology (Copenhagen Decisions 1953, 25). It seemed at one time that an application to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, inviting them to use their plenary powers in preventing the transfer, would be necessary; but it now appears that the action proposed by Mees is not in fact in accordance with the International Rules. If this interpretation of the situation is correct, only the following exposition of the facts is necessary. I am greatly indebted to Heer G. F. Mees of the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, for memoranda on the literature and much helpful correspondence; to Professor Ernst Mayr of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Harvard, for invaluable advice; to Dr. Allen Keast of the Australian Museum, Sydney, for information on the type of *Tephras olivaceus* Ramsay; to Mr. R. Wagstaffe of the City of Liverpool Public Museums, for information on the lost type of *Z.rendovae*; to Mr. R. E. Moreau of the Edward Grey Institute, Oxford, for information on *Certhia olivacea* Linné; and to Mr. H. O. Ricketts, of the British Museum (Natural History), for preparing the final drawing of Table I.

A single species of *Zosterops* is found on each of the islands San Cristobal and Rendova, in the British Solomon Islands Protectorate. These two species are quite distinct, and not closely related to one another. Several authors have been led by the specific name *ugiensis* published by Ramsay (1882) to attribute a species of *Zosterops* to the island of Ugi, though neither Ramsay nor any other author has specifically recorded specimens from there. Ugi is a small island near San Cristobal, from which its avifauna is almost exclusively derived. The San Cristobal *Zosterops* is rare in the lowlands, if not entirely confined to the ridges of that island (Cain & Galbraith, 1956, 292), and is not likely to be found on Ugi.

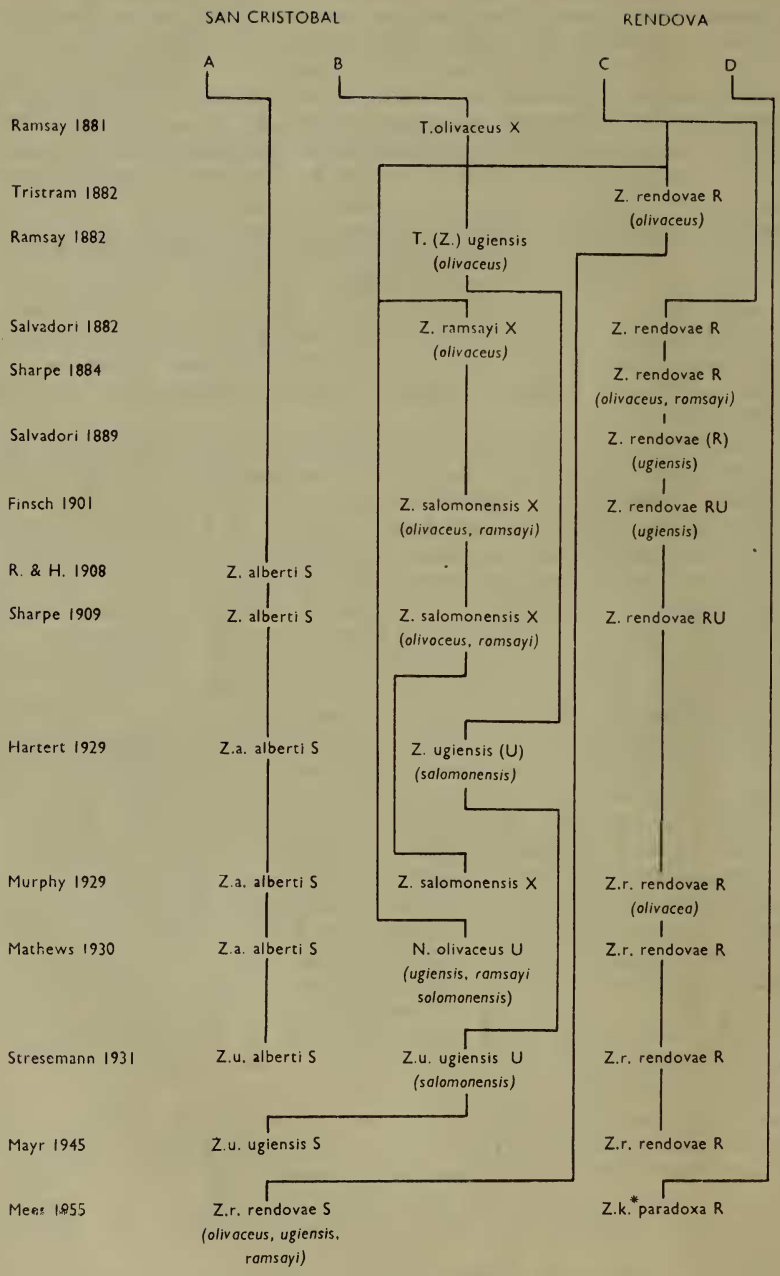
Thus the biological situation is quite simple, but unfortunately the nomenclature is most confused. Ramsay (1881, 180), publishing on birds from the Solomon Islands, named as *Tephras olivaceus* a single specimen

without more precise locality, collected by Lieut. G. E. Richards, R.N. Apparently no subsequent author has examined the unique type in the Australian Museum. Dr. Keast has compared it with a specimen of *Zosterops* collected on San Cristobal by myself, with which it agrees in all respects, except in lacking any trace of the latter's yellow carotenoid pigment, and in having the underparts soiled. Mayr (*in litt.*) is evidently correct in supposing it to be a specimen from San Cristobal, skinned from spirit. Several of the specimens recorded by Ramsay (belonging to subspecies now known as *Coracina tenuirostris salomonis* (Tristram), *C. lineata makirae* Mayr, *Rhipidura rufifrons russata* Tristram, *Pachycephala pectoralis christophori* Tristram, and *Myzomela nigrita tristrami* Ramsay) probably came from San Cristobal, though the *Pachycephala* was said to be from Ugi (see Cain & Galbraith 1956, 104). The type of *Monarcha richardsii* (Ramsay) was also said to be from Ugi, although this species is now known to be confined to the Central Solomons group to which Rendova belongs. Ramsay's locality records are notoriously inaccurate (Mayr 1933, 551).

Lieut. Richards also collected, on Rendova, a single specimen which Tristram (January 1882, 135) mis-identified as Ramsay's *Tephras olivaceus*. Tristram recognized it to be a *Zosterops*, and pointed out that *Certhia olivacea* Linné (1767, 185) had been placed in that genus by Hartlaub (1860, 95). (Linné's was the first valid publication of the non-binomial *Certhia madagascariensis olivacea* of Brisson (1760, 625), which seems despite Sclater (1930, 680) to be the bird at present known as *Zosterops curvirostris haesitatus* Hartlaub, of Réunion——Moreau, personal communication). Tristram should either have proposed a substitute name for *T.olivaceus*, or have made his specimen from Rendova the type of a new species. What he did was to erect a composite species, by publishing "*Zosterops rendovae* sp.nov." with a description of his bird, and commenting ". . . I have felt it necessary to substitute another name for this very remarkable species . . .". Thus at its first publication, *Zosterops rendovae* Tristram was expressly stated both to be the name of a new species, and to be a substitute name for *olivaceus*. Tristram's attitude to the question is suggested by the name he chose. It was current practice (followed by Salvadori (1882a, 425) and Finsch (1901, 42) in proposing the names *ramsayi* and *salomonensis* as substitutes for Ramsay's *olivaceus*) to form a substitute name for another author's species either from his patronymic or from the type locality of his specimens. Instead, Tristram used the locality of his own specimen. Whether he regarded *rendovae* as applying to this specimen, rather than to the type of *T.olivaceus*, from the first, he certainly did so by 1889 (212), when he listed the Rendova specimen as the type of *rendovae*.

The type specimen of *Zosterops rendovae* Tristram was purchased with the Tristram Collection by the City of Liverpool Public Museums, and has not been found since the fire which damaged the Museum during the late war. However, it was figured (Tristram 1894, pl. 3, fig. 2), and undoubtedly belonged to the form recorded from Rendova by subsequent authors.

Ramsay (after 29th March, 1882, 28) independently noticed that *olivaceus* was preoccupied in *Zosterops*, and published *Tephras* (*Zosterops*) *ugiensis* as a substitute. He did not comment on the locality of the type.



Caption to this Table on opposite page.

Salvadori (October 1882a, 425) recognized that the descriptions of *rendovae* and *olivaceus* did not agree, and separated them. His action as first reviser, in restricting the application of *rendovae* to Tristram's specimen, was in accordance with the usage of the time. Overlooking *ugiensis*, Salvadori published *Zosterops ramsayi* as a substitute for *olivaceus*.

Sharpe (1884, 188) synonymized *olivaceus* with *rendovae*, while noting that Salvadori considered them to be distinct. Thus he accepted Salvadori's action as first reviser in restricting the application of *rendovae*, though disagreeing on a subjective judgment. He pointed out that *ramsayi* was preoccupied by *Zosterops ramsayi* Masters (1876, 56) of Palm Island, North Queensland.

Salvadori later (1889, 132) followed Sharpe in synonymizing *ugiensis* (which his use of reference numbers here and in 1882b, 546 shows to be *ramsayi*) with *rendovae*. This was a reversal of a subjective judgment, not a disavowal of his own action as first reviser.

However, Finsch (1901, 26 & 42) attempted to follow Salvadori in both courses of action, separating *rendovae* (=*ugiensis*) from *olivaceus*. Thus he placed the objective synonyms *olivaceus* and *ugiensis* under different species. His usage is contrary to the rules of nomenclature and cannot be cited as a repudiation of Salvadori's action. Finsch also proposed *Z.salomonensis* as a substitute for *olivaceus*. Four names were now unequivocally attached to Ramsay's type.

Rothschild & Hartert (1908, 364) published the name *Zosterops alberti* for specimens collected on San Cristobal, without mentioning any other species of *Zosterops*. Between then and 1945, it gradually became clear that only two populations were involved, on San Cristobal and Rendova. This can best be appreciated from Table I, which shows how the seven names available for these two populations are related to four type specimens, and how they have been applied. Sharpe (1909, 9, 18 & 632) now followed Salvadori's original action, in separating *rendovae* from Ramsay's type (which, neglecting *ugiensis*, he called *salomonensis*). For no evident reason he gave both Rendova and Ugi as localities for

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TABLE I

Illustrating the relationship between two populations, four type specimens and seven names of *Zosterops* on San Cristobal and Rendova Islands in the Solomons, and the application of these names by various authors (quoted synonyms in parentheses).

1. TYPES
   - A. Type of *alberti*. Yanuta (San Cristobal), Meek, 25 April, 1908. Tring Museum no. 4078.
   - B. Type of *olivaceus*. Solomon Islands, Richards. Australian Museum no. A 9798.
   - C. Type of *rendovae*. Rendova, Richards, 15 August, 1880. Tristram Collection, City of Liverpool Public Museums.
   - D. Type of *paradoxa*. Rendova, Meek, 15 February, 1904. British Museum (Natural History) no. 1905.11.25.26.

2. GENERIC NAMES USED
   - N. *Nesozosterops*
   - T. *Tephras*
   - Z. *Zosterops*

3. RANGES QUOTED
   - R. Rendova
   - S. San Cristobal
   - U. Ugi
   - X. Unlocalized within the Solomons

* *kulambangrae* Rothschild & Hartert, 1901.

rendovae, while leaving *salomonensis* unlocalized within the Solomons. This cannot be taken to imply that the two species were still being confused in nomenclature as Mees (*in litt.*) considers. Hartert (1929, 10) considered the possibility that *ugiensis* might be the same as *alberti* of San Cristobal, but was misled by the description (reflecting the discoloration of the type) into thinking that this could not be so. Murphy (1929, 3–4 & 6) formally cited only *alberti* and *rendovae*, and considered *olivacea* (*sic*) to be synonymous with the latter. This does not imply that, repudiating Salvadori's action, he regarded *rendovae* and *olivacea* as objective synonyms based on the same type. However, in mentioning *salomonensis* as a distinct form (possibly a representative of *alberti*) he fell into much the same error as Finsch. Mathews (1930, 702, 708 & 713) improperly resurrected the name *olivaceus* Ramsay (a rejected homonym), which he correctly separated from *rendovae* but did not associate with *alberti*. Stresemann (1931, 224–225) distinguished the supposed *ugiensis* of Ugi only subspecifically from *alberti* of San Cristobal, and Mayr (1945, 272–273) finally synonymized them. Sibley (1951, 92) and Cain & Galbraith (1956, 104 & 291) followed Mayr's nomenclature.

Thus for seventy-three years (1882–1955) the *Zosterops* on Rendova has been universally known as *rendovae* Tristram, although Finsch (1901) and Sharpe (1909) considered it to occur on Ugi also. Murphy (1929) first used *rendovae* for a polytypic species, which Mayr (1945) considered to extend over the whole Central Solomons group.

The name *ugiensis* has had a chequered history. Published in 1882, it was not recognized as a valid name until 1929. However, if *rendovae* should apply to the Rendova bird, *ugiensis* is undoubtedly the oldest valid name for the San Cristobal one. It was first used for the polytypic species found on Bougainville, Guadalcanal and San Cristobal by Stresemann (1931), followed by Mayr (1945) and Cain & Galbraith (1956).

In 1953 the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology approved the resolutions of the Colloquium on Zoological Nomenclature, which thus became morally binding on zoologists, although they have not yet come formally into operation pending the publication of the revised International Rules (Copenhagen 1953, 103–104). Two aspects of these resolutions are relevant here. A preamble to the Rules was adopted (*op. cit.*, 22) emphasizing stability and universality as the primary objects of the Rules. The Principle of Conservation giving automatic effect to this (*op. cit.*, 25–26 & 119–122) is concerned with the case of an established name threatened by a long-neglected senior synonym, and is not directly relevant. However, the International Commission were instructed (*op. cit.*, 22–23) to use their plenary powers "for the purpose of preventing confusion and promoting a stable and universally accepted nomenclature."

Directly relevant to the present case is the provision, adopted for insertion into Article 31 of the Rules, that "Where a specific name, when first published, is specifically stated to be a substitute (e.g. by the use of such expressions as 'nom.nov.' or 'nom.mut.') for a previously published name but is at the same time applied to particular specimens, the species to which the new name applies is in all circumstances that to which the previously published name is applicable." (op. cit., 75–76). Mees (1955) invoked this decision in order to reverse Salvadori's action as first reviser,

and to transfer the name *Zosterops rendovae* Tristram (considered by him as an objective synonym of *Tephras olivaceus* Ramsay) from the Rendova form, to which it had been applied for seventy-three years, to a quite different species in another part of the Solomons. This action would leave the Rendova population without a valid name, which Mees supplied by describing a new subspecies *Zosterops kulambangrae paradoxa*. (*Zosterops kulambangrae* Rothschild & Hartert (1901, 181) is the oldest available name for the Central Solomons species if *rendovae* is transferred).

This transfer of a name would have deplorable consequences. Far from being irrelevant to nomenclatural discussion (Mees *in litt.*), Mayr's (1945) pioneer field-guide to the south-west Pacific has equal status with any other validly published work, and it is especially important that the nomenclature there adopted should not be capriciously overthrown. Several authors have already followed this work in systematic presentation, of whom Sibley (1951) and Cain & Galbraith (1956) mention the *Zosterops* of Rendova and San Cristobal by the names *rendovae* and *ugiensis* respectively. Mayr's book will be the standard work for field students for many years, and it would be exceedingly unfortunate if they and the museum systematists were to use the name *Zosterops rendovae* for two quite different species. Although the appropriateness of a name is irrelevant to its validity, misleading geographical apellations are obviously undesirable. Mees (*in litt.*) considers *ugiensis* no less than *rendovae* to be inappropriate to a form found only on San Cristobal: but while Ugi belongs avifaunally to the San Cristobal group of islands, Rendova is one of the remote and very distinct Central Solomons group.

Supposing that the name *Zosterops rendovae* Tristram ought strictly to refer to the San Cristobal form, expediency and the spirit of the Copenhagen decisions demand that it should not be used for it. The International Commission should be requested to use their plenary powers, either to place *rendovae* and *ugiensis* on the Official List of Nomina Conservanda and to designate Rendova Island as the type locality of the former, or to place *rendovae* on the Official Index of Nomina Rejecta. But in fact the transfer of names proposed by Mees is contrary to the International Rules.

In the first place, the Copenhagen decision of 1953, even when it comes formally into operation, should not be applied retrospectively to reverse the decision made by Salvadori in 1882, in accordance with the usage of his time, and tacitly accepted by all those subsequent authors whose treatment of the synonymy is legitimate.

In the second place, this case is not one to which the provision which is to be inserted in Article 31 of the Rules can automatically be applied. *Zosterops rendovae* at its first publication was not simply "applied to certain specimens", but was specifically stated to be the name of a new species, for which its author later designated a type (Tristram 1889). The statement that the name was a substitute was made informally and on a subsequent line, and there is no reason under the Rules to give it greater weight.

The action proposed by Mees (1955), transferring the name *Zosterops rendovae* Tristram to the form at present known as *Zosterops ugiensis* (Ramsay), is thus entirely unjustifiable, and the nomenclature adopted by Mayr (1945) may stand. *Zosterops kulambangrae paradoxa* Mees is a synonym of *rendovae*.

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